

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 01263 211134Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NIC-01

DRC-01 /086 W

----- 025408

R 211015Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7042

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 1263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA 1253

1. CHARGE AND POLEC ATTENDED SEPTEMBER 19 RALLY OF SOVIET-BULGARIAN FRIENDSHIP AT WHICH BOTH ZHIVKOV AND BREZHNEV ADDRESSED WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES (ASSUME DEPT AND MOSCOW HAVE TEXTS).

2. WE BELIEVE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF ZHIVKOV SPEECH WARRANT SPECIAL ATTENTION. ON BULGARIAN-SOVIET BILATERALS ZHIVKOV REPEATED FORMULATION USED IN HIS SEPT 17 ADDRESS ON SOVIET RADIO AND TV THAT IN FUTURE BULGARIA AND USSR WILL ACT AS "ONE ORGANISM, WITH SAME LUNGS, AND SAME CIRCULATORY SYSTEM". EVEN ALLOWING FOR CERTAIN AMOUNT OF BULGARIAN HYPERBOLE, THIS STRANGE EXPRESSION IS REMINISCENT OF SIMILAR (IF WEAKER) STATEMENTS FOLLOWING NOVEMBER 1972

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 01263 211134Z

ZHIVKOV-BREZHNEV SUMMIT IN MOSCOW. WHAT THIS PHRASE

MEANS IN PRACTICAL TERMS IS STILL VERY MUCH UNCLEAR, BUT ZHIVKOV DID REITERATE IMPORTANCE OF JULY 1973 PLENUM AT WHICH "IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT A QUALITATIVE CHANGE" HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BULGARIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. ZHIVKOV SPEECH SEPT 19 IS STRONGEST STATEMENT OF COOPERATION ANYONE HAS MADE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE.

3. WE WERE ALSO STRUCK BY ZHIVKOV'S "LECTURING" TO OTHER SOCIALIST STATES TO EMULATE BULGARIAN-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP AS "THE IDEAL". CONDESCENSION BY BULGARIANS ON THIS ISSUE WITH SOCIALIST ALLIES IS NOT NEW, BUT IT MUST BE GRATING ON OTHER MEMBERS WARSAW PACT TO HAVE BULGARS TELL THEM HOW THEY SHOULD TREAT THE USSR. IN ANY EVENT, ROMANIAN EMBASSY DELEGATION AT RALLY SAT STONE-FACED THROUGH THIS (AND OTHER) PORTIONS OF SPEECH. ZHIVKOV ATTACK ON PRC IS SHARPEST BY ANY BULGARIAN PARTY OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN OUR MEMORY AND IT APPEARS TO US THAT BULGARS WERE ACTING AS SOVIET STALKING HORSE, ALTHOUGH BREZHNEV REMAINED SILENT ON THE SUBJECT. ATTACK WAS SO SHARP, IN FACT, AS TO RAISE QUESTION IN OUR MINDS OF WHETHER CHINA ISSUE IS NOT CENTRAL TO BREZHNEV VISIT OR WHETHER BULGARS HAVE BEEN GIVEN ORDERS TO RALLY "SOCIALIST WORLD" TO CAUSE OF ANTI-MAOISM.

4. IN DISCUSSING RELATIONS WITH CAPITALIST COUNTRIES ZHIVKOV ENDORSED BREZHNEV POLICY IN USUAL TERMS. BREZHNEV, FOR HIS PART, PUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CSCE MEETING OPENING IN GENEVA, BUT, AS FAR AS WE CAN SEE, DID NOT ADD OR SUBTRACT FROM PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITIONS AS LAID OUT IN HELSINKI PHASE.

5. BOTH ZHIVKOV AND BREZHNEV WERE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED IN MAKING FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON CHILEAN SITUATION AND AT NO POINT SINGLED OUT US TO BLAME. THIS PORTION OF ZHIVKOV SPEECH, HOWEVER, DELIVERED WITH OBVIOUS EMOTION AND WAS RECEIVED WITH ENTHUSIASM BY ASSEMBLED PARTY WORKERS.

6. WE ASSUME SOME PIECES OF VISIT WILL FALL INTO PLACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 01263 211134Z

IN COMING WEEKS. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT HASTILY ARRANGED VISIT WAS MADE TO RECEIVE AWARD, OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS BUSINESS WAS CONDUCTED DURING VISIT WHICH COULD HAVE IMPORTANT RAMIFICATIONS FOR BILATERAL RELATIONS AT LEAST, AND POSSIBLY FOR OTHER SOCIALIST STATES AS WELL.

7. AT NATO MONTHLY CHIEF OF MISSIONS MEETING SEPT 20 PARTICIPANTS AGREED IN GENERAL WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF

CENTRAL POINTS OF SPEECH, ALTHOUGH INITIAL MOTIVE
BEHIND VISIT REMAINS UNCLEAR. BASED ON REPORT OUT
OF BEIRUT THAT BREZHNEV IS HAVING SECRET MEETING
WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND THAT BREZHNEV'S
DEPARTURE, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED SEPT 21, HAS BEEN PUT OFF
24 HOURS CAUSED SPECULATION THAT TWO COULD BE MEETING
IN BULGARIA. BREZHNEV ABSENT FROM SOFIA TODAY AND
REPORTED TO BE "HUNTING". IF SADAT INDEED MEETING
WITH BREZHNEV, THIS COULD EXPLAIN OBVIOUS RUSH IN
ARRANGING VISIT, TIMING OF WHICH MORE AND MORE APPEARS
TO HAVE CAUGHT GOB BY SURPRISE.
BATJER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SOFIA01263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730918/aaaaancx.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SOFIA 1253
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <07-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV VISIT TO BULGARIA
TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005